

# Mt. Hope Building Project – Time for Decision

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**The Need:** As Mt. Hope Church grows in our relationships with God and others, a dynamic need has arisen to provide appropriate and practical physical space to maintain the rich culture of our church. Keeping the church focused in **one service on Sundays** and creating ample **space for fellowship gatherings** has become a priority need for our church. To that end, a modest expansion of our sanctuary and the creation of new, larger fellowship space has been designed.

- At present, the **single largest space** in which we can meet for **open fellowship**—other than the sanctuary—seats only 30 people.
  - **With the proposed new expansion**, we will be able to seat **80 people** around tables in one large multi-purpose space, and **another 40** around tables in the multi-use expansion of the sanctuary.
- **A large new foyer, large restrooms, and modern expanded kitchen** will support all the activities and fellowship needs of the congregation.
- **The sanctuary will gain up to 85 new seats** in a **multi-use extension** that will preserve the historical look, feel, and wood finishes of our 1800s-era worship space.
  - This expansion will allow our church to grow in **one weekly service** instead of holding multiple Sunday morning services, an essential reality to preserving the **in-depth relational culture** of our church.

**The Question:** While this project seems within reach of our current financial situation, it is imperative that we collectively **hear from the Holy Spirit** if this is indeed the **project** and **timing** He is leading us to. We have held several prayer vigils and prayer efforts to ask everyone in our congregation to seek God for His wisdom and leadership. Our final weeks of listening prayer and decision-making as a congregation are scheduled to **wrap up by the end of April 2025**.

**The Specific and Personal Ask:** There are **three specific questions** we have asked the congregation to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Now it is time to transition from seeking and listening to **deciding** and **communicating**. The three questions we need to hear from you as to what God is leading in your heart are:

- Is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you that this is the **right project** for our church?
- Is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you that this is the **right time** for this project?
- Is the Holy Spirit impressing upon you **personal financial generosity** towards this project?

**The Communication:** We have **FOUR** upcoming communication steps in the final weeks of this decision-making period:

1. **Beginning Sunday, March 16**, an *anonymous online survey* will be open for everyone to communicate to our leadership team what they feel the Holy Spirit has been communicating to them, helping us assess the general unity of what God is showing us.
2. **Sunday, March 30, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**, an *all-congregation information and discussion* meeting will present a final look at the project and create open dialogue opportunities as an entire congregation.
  - a. **Detailed budget and financing options** will be presented and discussed.
  - b. A final **3-Dimensional rendering** of the completed facility expansion will be presented and discussed.
3. **Beginning Sunday, April 6**, a confidential online and printed *communication card* will become available for individuals to *communicate the specific generosity* the Holy Spirit is leading them to contribute to this project.
  - a. What **one-time financial gift** is the Holy Spirit leading you to make as cash-on-hand for the building project—to be given **between now and August 2025?**
  - b. What **ongoing monthly designated giving** is the Holy Spirit leading you to make **over the next two to three years** to support debt service / debt elimination on the balance of the project?
4. **Sunday, April 27, 11:45 – 1:00 p.m.**, an all-congregation *FINAL decision meeting* where our Covenant Partners will vote to either **proceed** with the project, **pause** the project for a later time, or **dismiss** the project altogether. The Covenant Partners will also vote on the potential acquisition of debt—*if needed*—for the construction project.

**Our Financial Situation:** Through the bold generosity of previous generations, Mt. Hope is in an incredibly strong and stable financial situation. This makes the potential of this project within reasonable reach *if* the Holy Spirit is leading the necessary levels of generosity from our current Mt. Hope generation.

- We are **currently debt-free** with all of our property and facilities with a net financial cash position of approximately **\$1.1M**.
  - Of this, approximately **\$800,000** is **cash-in-hand** designated exclusively for this facility expansion project.
- The **total design and construction cost** for this project is estimated at **\$1.5M - \$1.8M**.
  - We are seeking the Holy Spirit for as much *initial one-time generosity* as able this summer to enlarge the cash on hand for the project.
  - Then, any additional *ongoing monthly commitments* over the next **two to three years** will enable confidence to acquire debt for the remaining project costs.
    - *(We have four potential lenders interested in working with us.)*

**Proposed Design:** The following renderings have been created to demonstrate the design features, look and feel, and functionality of the finished expansion. A final set of 3-Dimensional renderings will be presented at the *all-congregation information and discussion* meeting on **Sunday, March 30, 11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**



SCHEMATIC VIEW 01



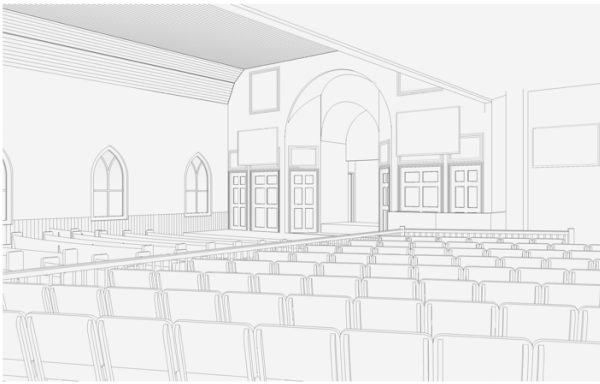
SCHEMATIC FLOOR PLAN  
1/8" = 1'-0"



SCHEMATIC VIEW 02



① SANCTUARY VIEW 1



② SANCTUARY VIEW 2



③ SANCTUARY VIEW 3